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Greenwich Academy Students Give 'By the Book' for Blythedale Patients and Families

Pre-K and Kindergarten students organize book drive for new Family Resource Center

VALHALLA, NY (January 31, 2012) – Blythedale Children's Hospital's received a generous donation of brand new children's books, thanks to the efforts of students from Greenwich Academy's Lower School. Girls in the pre-K and kindergarten classes collected books destined for the Sibling Playroom in Blythedale's new Family Resource Center.

Blythedale opened a new \$65.3 million, 56,000 square-foot inpatient hospital building in December 2011, and the Family Resource Center accommodates the needs of parents and family members who must spend extended periods of time visiting patients at the Hospital.

The girls decided to make the donation after learning about Blythedale and the Hospital's work with children facing serious medical challenges. The students organized a book drive and collected more than 100 books in a month.

Susan Murray, Blythedale's Director of Social Work, visited the school to accept the books on behalf of the grateful children of Blythedale. She read a story to the students and thanked them for their kind donation. "The enthusiasm and joy shown by the girls for the simple act of giving to other children was heart-warming," Murray said about the donation.

The books will used in the Family Resource Center's Sibling Playroom and enjoyed by patients and their families.

"We are so grateful for such a thoughtful and generous gift," said Lena Cavanna, Director of Community Relations at Blythedale. "Families and siblings of our patients spend a great deal of time at Blythedale. By sharing their love of books and reading, these students are exhibiting great character and compassion at such a young age."

About Blythedale Children's Hospital

As New York's only freestanding, specialty children's hospital, Blythedale Children's Hospital is dedicated to improving the health status and quality of life of children with complex medical illnesses and disabling conditions through superb multi-disciplinary patient care, teaching, research, and advocacy programs. Blythedale's board-certified physicians, nurses, and other clinical staff (social workers, respiratory therapists, clinical pharmacists, Child Life specialists, etc.) and New York State's largest hospital-based pediatric therapy department (PT, OT and Speech) work together to provide intensive and innovative multi-disciplinary clinical and therapeutic care to help children achieve their medical and rehabilitative goals for independent living, and return to their communities. Blythedale is also the only Hospital in New York State with its own, on-site public school district, the Mt. Pleasant Blythedale Union Free School District. For more information about Blythedale Children's Hospital, visit www.blythedale.org.

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Photo Caption:

Students from Greenwich Academy's Lower School organized a book drive for the new Family Resource Center at Blythedale Children's Hospital. Elizabeth Godoy, Family Resource Center Associate, displays the large donation of books, which will be enjoyed by patients and families in the new Sibling Playroom.